

# Disappearance

***About the need for what seems unnecessary, about the essential characteristics of beauty, about the futility of consumerism and the transience of possessions.***

The amount of useless garbage we throw away has always struck me. However, more than the abundance of what we put in the waste, I have sought to explore the disappearance of things.

For this series of photographs, I collected, over a period of one week, and archived, day by day, everything I would normally throw away.

In our society, there's no place for what is not considered useful or beautiful. Anything that might disturb us is voluntarily rejected.

What relationship is there between happiness and consumerism? Do we have to consume to be happy? In an attempt to answer these questions, I have tried to find a place for everything (and everyone), including what we would rather not see.

I worked on this series in the studio using a technical camera because I wanted to remove the garbage from its usual context in order to give it a place of importance, regardless of the quality of the waste-matter itself. It is the new status of the material that interests me.

My photographs can be seen as contemporary vanities rather than as ecological moralising. In my work, I refer back to the still life painters of the 17th and 18th centuries who sought to transmit the idea of the futility of accumulating possessions in the face of death.

*Delphine Burtin*